

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0895

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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UNCLAS STRASBOURG 98

FOR EUR/RPE - MR. SALISBURY

E.O.11652: N/A

TABS: COE, PFOR, IT, XG.

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF EUROPE BICENTENNIAL MESSAGE TO
CONGRESS

JOHN PRIESTMAN, CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY, HAS INFORMED ME THAT THE BUREAU OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL HAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A MESSAGE TO BE TRANSMITTED TO CONGRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF UNITED STATES INDEPENDENCE. HE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT IN ARRANGING FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE MESSAGE BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY.

THE MESSAGE, TEXT OF WHICH TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY, PRAISES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS IN U.S. AS AN EXAMPLE TO BE FOLLOWED BY ALL PEOPLES, EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR U.S. EFFORTS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION AMONG PEOPLES OF EUROPE FOR PURPOSE OF PRESERVING THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY. STATING ITS CONVICTION OF NEED FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO LOWERING TENSION, PROMOTING PEACE AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN WORLD MESSAGE CALLS ON COLLEAGUES IN
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BOTH HOUSES OF UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO JOIN THEM IN THIS

ENDEAVOR , AND TO CONFIRM DURING THE BICENTENNIAL THE
IDEAL OF FREEDOM ON WHICH U.S. SOCIETY IS BASED. IT ASKS
CONGRESS TO ENCOURAGE MEETINGS BETWEEN ITS MEMBERS AND MEMBERS
OF PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER WAYS OF JOINTLY TACKLING
PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL CONCERN ON ATLANTIC OR WORLD WIDE BASIS.

IN ADDITION TO ITS WARM STATEMENT OF ADMIRATION FOR U.S.
PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY , MESSAGE IS NOTABLE FOR EXPRESSION
OF DESIRE FOR INCREASED CONTACTS BETWEEN CONGRESS AND PARLIA-
MENTARY ASSEMBLY AND CLEAR RECOGNITION THAT WESTERN EUROPE AND
U.S. ARE MEMBERS OF ATLANTIC COMMUNITY.

BUREAU HAS APPOINTED SENATOR GIUSEPPE VEDOVATO OF FLORENCE,
ITALY, CHAIRMAN OF ASSEMBLY S POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY TO PRESENT MESSAGE FORMALLY
TO REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

VEDOVATO WILL BE IN UNITED STATES WEEK OF MAY 24-29 AND COULD
MAKE PRESENTATION DURING THIS PERIOD AT CONVENIENCE OF CONGRES-
SIONAL REPRESENTATIVES. IF AGREEABLE TO SENATE AND HOUSE,
VEDOVATO HOPES HE MAY MAKE PRESENTATION JOINTLY TO VICE PRESIDENT
AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE IN PRESENCE OF CHAIRMEN OF SENATE AND
HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBERS AS APPRO-
PRIATE. HOWEVER, HE WILL OF COURSE BE GUIDED BY WISHES OF SENATE
AND HOUSE IN THIS MATTER. IN CHOOSING ITS FORMER PRESIDENT,
A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT, TO CARRY ITS
MESSAGE PERSONALLY TO THE UNITED STATES, THE ASSEMBLY HOPES TO MAKE
AN APPROPRIATE GESTURE UNDERLINING ITS CONTINUING ADMIRATION OF
THE UNITED STATES AND ITS INSTITUTIONS, AS WELL AS ITS DESIRE
TO BUILD CLOSER RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS ON MATTERS OF COMMON
CONCERN. ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT KARL CZERNETZ IS SENDING TELEGRAMS
TO VICE PRESIDENT AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND TO CHAIRMEN
OF SENATE AND HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES ON THIS
SUBJECT.

COUNCIL S PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY IS THE OLDEST INTER PARLIAMENTARY
BODY IN WESTERN EUROPE, AND HAS COUNTED MANY DISTINGUISHED
PERSONS IN ITS MEMBERSHIP INCLUDING CHURCHILL, SCHUMAN, ADENAUER,
AND SPAAK. ITS VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IS WELL KNOWN.
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I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT SUPPORT THIS REQUEST AND
ASSIST IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRESENTATION AT AN APPRO-
PRIATELY HIGH LEVEL. SUGGEST IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IF
FOLLOWING CEREMONY CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT OFFER
LUNCH IN VEDOVATO S HONOR AS REPRESENTATIVE OF COUNCIL OF
EUROPE, AS IS DONE WHEN CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES VISIT
COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

IF MEETING ARRANGED, COULD DEPARTMENT FURNISH INTERPRETER SINCE
VEDOVATO S ENGLISH IS WEAK?ROMINE

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